

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7088



Introduced by Representative DAN S. FERNANDEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

“All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies.” Thus guarantees the Bill of Rights of the 1987 Philippine Constitution (under Section 16 of Article III thereof). On the other hand, Sec. 14 (2) under the same Article ensures the accused of a “speedy, impartial, and public trial”, among other rights.

But what happens if these constitutional guarantees are rendered illusory by the realities on the ground, namely, certain jurisdictions with very few courts whose dockets are increasingly clogged by continuous filing of cases by litigants?

In the City of Sta. Rosa, Province of Laguna, there are only two (2) branches of the Regional Trial Court and one (1) branch of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities. Before these courts are thousands of cases which remain pending. Needless to state, clogged dockets are a strain not only on the judiciary but also upon the prosecutorial arm of the government.

This bill therefore aims to address this acute shortage of courts with the proposed creation of ten (10) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and three (3) branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities, to be stationed in the City of Sta Rosa, Province of Laguna. Given the foregoing premises, the early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan S. Fernandez", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

HON. DAN S. FERNANDEZ
First District of Laguna

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HOUSE BILL NO. 7088

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AN ACT

AN ACT CREATING TEN (10) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) AND SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Ten (10) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and three (3) additional branches of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities in the Fourth Judicial Region, to be stationed in the City of Santa Rosa, Province of Laguna, are hereby created.

The Supreme Court shall assign the respective branch numbers for the newly created branches of the Regional Trial Court and Municipal Trial Court in Cities.

SEC. 2. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Justice, shall immediately include in the Court's program the operationalization of ten (10) additional branches of the Regional Trial Court and three (3) additional branches of Municipal Trial Court in Cities, to be stationed in the City of Santa Rosa , Province of Laguna. The funds necessary for the operation of the courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of its personnel.

SEC. 3. Section 14 (e) and Section 29 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as amended, otherwise known as "The Judiciary Reorganization Act of 1980", and all other laws, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,